

10 Internet Safety Tips

1. Create clear and simple ground rules for children to follow.
2. Place a computer with Internet access in a location that is visible to other members of the family (not in a child's bedroom).
3. Explain to your children that they should never give out identifying information – name, home address, school name, or telephone number – in a public forum such as a chat room or a bulletin board (newsgroup) or to people they do not know.
4. Discuss the importance of telling you or a trusted adult if something ever makes your child or teen feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused while online.
5. Get to know the Internet and any services your children use.
6. Become familiar with blocking and monitoring programs.
7. Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission or accompaniment.
8. Tell your children never to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.
9. Report messages that present a danger to local law enforcement.
10. Remind your children that people online may not (and likely are not) who they seem; and that everything people say online may not be true.

